EDITORS MESSAGE – Lynette Lake

This year has flown by, after taking a break of 3 months earlier in the year I feel like I missed quite a bit, hopefully I have covered everything we’ve done this year, and apologies for missing anything. Thanks heaps to those who contributes with reports and photo’s. Have a wonderful festive season.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Pat Bellhouse

It was an honour to be elected as your new President for this year and I trust that I will be able to follow the example set by our previous presidents. A very busy six months began my term and while not all members could attend all events we were able to share the projects.

We started off with the Red Cross Book Sale. This event is where clubs raising funds for local projects are invited to come for the last hour on the final day to collect unsold books to be redistributed in the community. While it was a very short timeframe we managed quite a collection that have been stored ready for Awesome Awapuni which I’ll mention later.

So far this year we’ve had two speakers at our meetings. Our member Annette gave us a very interesting talk and slide show on her trip to the Chatham Islands where she spent several days and visited some interesting gardens and historical sites. Then we had Fiona Bradley who is a young pharmacist who started her journey in Girl Guides and has since been able to visit many countries. We found Fiona to be a very inspirational young woman.

“Pink” Afternoon Tea (for Breast Cancer). This was a combined event that we held in June. Fifty women turned out for the fun and afternoon tea to support this very worthwhile cause. The funds raised were split three ways, with $305 going to Breast Cancer and our Club’s share from the raffles was $210.

Clubs Day – In July, the City Library held this inaugural event where over 60 clubs and organisations gathered in the library one afternoon to highlight their club with the idea of attracting new
members. Val, Lynette and I attended this and had a very busy time talking with members of the public who stopped by our stand. Altogether this was a very rewarding afternoon. Unfortunately we didn’t gain any new members though.

Since moving to our new meeting venue at the Cosmopolitan Club in Linton Street, we decided that it would be a good idea to take advantage of the facilities and so several of us had a midyear dinner there, together with our Altrousers. It was a good chance to get to know the new venue.

September and October were two busy months, starting off with Gael and myself recognising International Literacy Day on September 8th by going to Roslyn Library to read to children from two classes who came from Roslyn School. My favourite part was seeing the delight on the faces of the children as we read the stories to them.

This was followed by a fundraising movie night at Feilding Focal Point cinema. Members and friends gathered for an entertaining evening (starting with drinks) to see the movie The Book Club. A jolly good evening out. What an easy way to raise funds. Let’s hope we can do it again sometime in the future.

IFF Day (Information, fun and friendship). This annual event, where members from five different clubs from the lower North Island, gathered was very successful. Val and Pat ran a literacy quiz (to fit in with Literacy Month), this was followed by a very interesting speaker. Mike talked about his time in Africa where he goes, as part of an organization that trains locals in an attempt to combat illegal poaching. After a very tasty lunch, the remainder of the day was given over to various speakers who were able to share some really valuable information. Thanks to both Levin and Palmerston North Clubs for feeding us so well for the day.

NOVEMBER 2017

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIANT AT TEEN PARENT UNIT FREYBERG HIGH SCHOOL – report from Fiona

30/11/17 -This morning I attended the Prize Giving (or as Jenny described it – the Prize Giving) for the Teen Parent Unit. It was really interesting to hear about the different projects and achievements the girls had worked on this year and how well they had done. There are even two male students now – as it is the Teen Parent Unit, not the Teen Mum Unit. The girls seemed to be quite happy with this. I met Vonnese Grace who was the recipient of the scholarship this year. She will be attending the Hospitality Course at UCOL so we may get a chance to attend another dinner at Ambitions Restaurant during the year to watch her in action. A little bit about Vonnese – she is a lovely, friendly, positive young lady of 18. She became pregnant with her son Caleb at age 14, not realising she was expecting until 6 ½ months. She is the 3rd eldest in a family of five girls and four boys. She is nervous about leaving everything that is familiar about the staff and students at TPU but is really excited to be looking at learning something new next year. Her son will stay on at Nga Rito (the day care) while she studies at UCOL.

As of November 2018 we have been unable to contact Vonnese to give her the 2nd part of the scholarship, we will keep trying.
December 2017

Xmas Dinner -

At Bev & Peter’s – lovely evening catching up with members and Altrousers, lots of laughs, great to sit in the garden on a hot evening. The evening finished with Gael playing the organ and us singing Xmas carols – with the help of the words!

January 2018

PRE YEAR GET TOGETHER -

For this year’s get to together we tried to have a picnic again but the weather was against us. So instead we braved the friendly atmosphere of the Boho Café, we always have a great time there, it lays testament to the friendly owners and good food.
February Business Meeting – At our first meeting of the year we had the initiation of two new members, Clare and Linda.

Member profile – Clare - I was born in Auckland, went to kindy in Australia, went to primary school in Whakatane, went to High school in Blenheim and then studied at Otago where I met Pete! In my last year of High school our church group went to Vanuatu and helped a community over there and we ended up being able to build a boarding school from fundraising when we came back which was great. So education has always been a large part of my life. I have my mum who is a teacher and dad who is a hospital chaplain and my two brothers, one who is a sports missionary in France and one who is heading to the States on a tennis scholarship later in the year. I chose books over sports so my trophy cabinet at home is comparatively small! Once I finished at Otago I spent a year working at Disney World in Florida and then went back to do some Post-Grad study while Peter was finishing his Masters. After we graduated he joined the Army and I went to Africa to work in a hospital for a few months which was a really incredible experience. I came back to NZ and worked for the Ministry of Education in Wellington and soon after Pete and I got married at Waiheke which was beautiful. We went on our honeymoon to Italy and Greece so I could see all the vases and mosaics I had studied throughout school and University in Classics classes. We moved to Palmerston North a year ago and now I work at Massey and we have a beautiful not so little swiss shepherd puppy. I joined Altrusa because it was a group that did everything I loved being involved in. I have really enjoyed my time in the group and even though we are now being posted to Melbourne hope I can continue being a little involved from a far!

Member profile from Linda –
I grew up in Southland so am firmly attached to the landscapes of the south. I began working life as a primary school teacher, became involved in adult literacy in the 1970s and 1980s, worked at Otago Polytechnic in both literacy and staff development positions before continuing a staff development role at Wellington Polytechnic. I transitioned into Massey University working in programmes designed to help tertiary teachers enhance their teaching. As an interest, Altrusa is a very good fit for me. Other interests include
volunteering for Just Zilch and at the Garden of Tranquillity at the hospital, reading, gardening, walking/tramping and travelling. I am researching my family history and am a member of the local genealogy group committee. I have three sons, a stepson and stepdaughter and am looking forward to the birth of my ninth grandchild in October. That will be a great excuse for a trip south to meet her and see family members!

We also had a visit from District Governor Christine Melville, who talked about responsibility of board members in knowing there rolls and everyone’s part to play in the club.

March

Visitor - Victoria Gather and partner Stu Frith – Victoria talked about her career of 17 years with ABC TV in America as a front line news reporter, of meeting Stu and moving to Foxton Beach, and starting the International Connection Radio. Victoria is invited to do talks all over the world and NZ her next being about ‘Slavery in America’. Victoria still does some news coverage when asked, was at the White House for the last election.

One thing she wants New Zealanders to know is that NZ is not so small, when she goes home she never fails to hear about us in the news, from Jacinda’s baby to John Key’s pigtail pulling, it may not all be good publicity!

Victoria invited us to come on the radio that beams live around the world.

To fund the radio Stu makes jams and pickles which they sell at events such as our talk. Stu has limited sight so does a fantastic job producing them. We all brought some and they raised $50.00 approx.

April

Kids Lit day at Intermediate Normal 2018 – attended by some of our members as helpers for the day. Our Club also donates a prize to the winning small school.
May -

Conference in Ashburton attended by Fiona, Bev and Yvonne and Cliff (Altrouser).

Altrouser entertainment -

On the Friday evening Altrousers meet and greet the carers with canapes and drink. The Altrusans either make a meal for them or they go out for dinner. On Saturday they had breakfast, and then the Lions Club (Hamilton) took them out for the day to Westpac Helicopter, Good George (beer tasting), 10 Pin Bowling and then out for a meal. On Sunday they had breakfast in bed.

What a gorgeous photo, I think we needed a photo of the tutu’s worn !!!! Its us readers who need the dark glasses.

Stationery donations – Rebecca told us of a fellow taking donations of stationery to kids in the pacific, club members donated heaps of stationery and Rebecca took them to Black Sheep Designs.


Red Cross Book collection – 9 helpers helped collect books, however 30min collecting time very unrealistic. Something to consider for next year. Approximately 15 boxes of books collected.


June

**Pink Ribbon afternoon tea** at Milife hosted by President Pat, the afternoon started with a welcome from Pat and a pass the parcel that got everyone excited. In the spirit of the afternoon, various ladies had pink on or wore pink wigs – good on them. We were entertained thru the afternoon with Gael playing the piano, she also amused us with her collection of jokes – where does she get them from! We followed that up with afternoon tea with our members out doing themselves yet again. Finishing off the afternoon with the raffle draw, with not just one prize but 17, lots of ladies went home with presents.

The Milife ladies raised $246 from their table of homemade items for the social club, the raffle raised $201 towards Altrusa projects, and the Pink Ribbon movement made $330.00 – fantastic effort, and a most enjoyable afternoon.

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Readers Cup - attended by Rebecca and Pat, along similar lines to Kids Lit but with year 9’s, they had to study 6 books, with 15 teams attending. An enjoyable evening.

July

**Business meeting at the new venue at the Cosmopolitan Club,**

Annette our member was our speaker on her trip to the Chatham Islands. Annette went in January 2017 with her son Michael, her motivation was to see Lois Croon’s garden.

The island has many coffee lakes and peaty flat land in the north east, all the roads are gravel. With many historic sites throughout the islands Annette and Michel saw a great many. Finally ending with a visit to Lois’s beautiful garden, lots of wind breaks so that plants can survive. Very beautiful.
We saw lots of photo’s of the rough rocky outcrops along the coast, confirms what we have been told about the Chatham’s how beautiful the place is, but one can only imagine how inhospitable the island could be.

**Winter Solstice Dinner** – Cosmopolitan Club Fri 20/7 with Altrousers.

Great food, great company and very reasonable, though maybe not conducive to talking to everyone, we all enjoyed ourselves. We were welcomed by one of its members. Some of the members thought it would be a good place for a happy hour in future.

**Clubs Day at the City Library** – Thursday 26/7 attended by Pat, Val and Lynette.

This was organised by the Seniors team at the City Library. A great afternoon of networking with many others and the general public. All the service clubs were together and even though the space was pretty small, very hot and you had to shout at prospective members it was a lot of fun, we spoke to about 20-30 people and felt it was very worthwhile. We came away with some great ideas if we do this again. Pat and Val were in there element new heaps of people and some they couldn’t remember who they were – I’ll let Pat explain that one!! Hoping we get some new members from our hard work.

One prospective new member came to our August meeting – however decided that she was over committed, may come back in the future.

**August**

**Days for Girls New Zealand - Sewing Bee** – attended and reported by Annette

Twenty people from around the Manawatu, and one from Wairarapa, arrived to help with the latest DFG Sewing Bee on 5 August. In 3 hours this great gathering completed all the planned cutting, sewing, doming, sorting and packing which resulted in items for 100 kits sent off for Belize the following day.

This gathering also saw the coming together of women to establish a regular DFG sewing group meeting at Feilding Library, a plan to set up a regular sewing bee at Bernina (as new Palmerstonian Katie was involved with in Newcastle, Australia) and preparation for a Suffrage Day Sewing Bee on 19 September at both Feilding and Palmerston North Libraries, Feilding from 10am-2pm and Palmerston North 1–4pm.

Suffrage Day Sewing Bee also celebrates ACE Aotearoa’s Festival of Adult Learning, a fitting reminder that giving girls and women their days for learning and working is a precious and transformative gift.

To date in November DFG made the 100,000 goal for kits made.
Speaker at Business Meeting – Fiona Bradley Pharmacist, Photographed with Claire & Lynette.

A fantastic speaker, born in Ashburton, studying at Otago and moving to Palmy. What an amazing life so far, joining Guides as a youngster spending 6½ years on the board, travelling to many places around the world, attending and representing Guides on the world stage, training other delegates on the ‘No Violence’ programme that Guides has taken on. Representing guides at the United Nations. Fiona has recently become involved with the governance side of Pharmacy on the National Board.

We asked Fiona what it was that made her who she is and what made her take the path she has followed, her reply was it started with joining guides as a youngster she really enjoyed the way they encouraged and empowered young women.

She has a personal goal and only takes on jobs that fit with that goal for the future. This is one young women that we will see in the future no matter what she takes on. She has received two awards so far – 2013 Commonwealth Youth Award and then 2017 PN Local Hero AWARD.

WHAT SHE HAS LEARNT SO FAR – WE MUST HAVE ROLE MODELS, MUST ENCOURAGE YOUNG WOMEN, MUST BE HEARD, BE ACTIVE.

Happy Hour at Pat’s – 31/8, Only a couple of people were available in the end, sorry Pat that it wasn’t more of a success.

September

Literacy Day - Reading with Roslyn Suburban Library attended by President Pat and Gael.

In early September Gael and I recognised International Literacy Day on September 8th by going to Roslyn Library to read to children from two classes who came from Roslyn School. My favourite part was seeing the delight on the faces of the children as we read the stories to them. Gael is particularly good at this.
IFF DAY - 22/9 Ming-Chun Wu coordinator

Speaker Mike Baragwanath on his training in South Africa for anti-poaching groups. Very inspirational on just how bad things are. He is heading back there early next year to train others. He must have a very understanding wife. When you are passionate about saving animals there are no bounds, we were very humbled.

We enjoyed a quiz from Pat and Val, the morning tea from Levin and lunch from Palmerston North was great with plenty of food.

Talk from Christine District Governor and we participated in ways we should update the existing marketing we use, brochures, business cards, flyers, facebook etc.

Talk from Marie Mackay from Oamaru who is the District Governor Elect, about what’s happening both at International and New Zealand wide.

Talk from Ming-Chun Co-ordinator, who talked about some of the history of Altrusa and the old traditions and how they have changed.

Reports from all clubs in what they are up to. Also from Katrina who is starting the new club – Ohariu - in Wellington who has prospective 13 members when they start.

Talk from Melanie the District Service Chair from Hawera on turning negatives that affect our club into positives. Palmerston North recognised getting new members is our biggest challenge, and that we have to get more tech savy.

A talk from Marnie (apologies if I have spelt this incorrectly) from Te Awamutu about how we market ourselves, remember we are not always white middle class and we need to show that. We need to be interesting, showing photo’s of ourselves and bullet points rather than screeds of words.

A Fun day attended by Pat, Val, Fiona, Lynette, Gael and Annette, we learnt many things that are going to help our club in the long term. Thanks for your hard work.

**Happy Hour** - Focal Point, fund raiser we raised $250 approx to club. We saw the movie Book Club, it was very funny and everyone enjoyed themselves, some of the laughing sounded very much like embarrassed laughter, we all laughed along with them.
October

Val’s book launch – Postcards of Palmerston North - Upstairs at the City Library, we ladies provided finger food. The launch went well, an interesting talk from Val on how she put the book together, and how she has amassed her collection.

November

Awesome Awapuni – Make a difference day 3/11 – unfortunately this day was cancelled, we are looking at Esplanade Day to celebrate our make a difference day.

Xmas Dinner – at Cosmopolitan Club – Friday 30/11 at 6pm.

TPU Scholarship – this year there will be no scholarship as we don’t have the funds, decided to keep the contact with the TPU in the hope we will do next year.

Membership Drive – Lynette organised a flier to put up on notice boards around the city, hopefully we will get some calls from perspective members.
Red Bookshelves

We now have 3 bookshelves at the Community Centre see below, these are being replenished regularly, they are very popular.

![Red bookshelves image]

Little Free Library – the first has been put in place at the Cnr of College and Pitama Sts, the idea is to drop a book/s inside the letterbox and take out a book/s. These will be red with our logo on the back. They are being made by Menshed. Hopefully there will be more around the city soon.
Member movements -

New members – Clare, Linda

Resignations – Wendy, Bev, Clare

Bookworms Book Club - from Val and Pat

Our PN Altrusa Book Club, now into its fourth year, meets on the third Thursday of the month at Joseph Street Kitchen. All Altrusa members, past members and friends of Altrusa are welcome to attend. Ours is a book club with a difference, our aim being for members to interpret the monthly theme and inspire other members to read what they have chosen. 2018 topics have been rabbits, sport, shopping and department stores, politics, mums and dads, transport, discovery and exploration and suffragettes. As some members are unable to attend during the day our November business meeting included a quiz for members on New Zealand birds. Altrusa Director Alison Burr also attended this meeting.

Donations made this year -

Stationery to school children in the Pacific.

Donation of volunteers and prize for Kids Lit.

Donations of Mothers Day gift Baskets, packaged by Rebecca and delivered to Just Zilch, Women's refuge, TPU, ACROSS Social Services and one other place in Highbury. All the gifts were donated by staff at Russell Street and College Street schools.
Pink Ribbon for Breast Cancer - $330.00
Donation of Time to Days for Girls to make up kits, also some raffle money from IFF Day $102.00
Donation of books to Terrace End School.
Donation of books to The Creche at the TPU (Team Parent Unit at Freyberg High School)
Donation from Val to the club for supporting her book launch with supper.

**Facebook** - This is still a work in progress we are all going to have to play a part in this, was recognised as letting us down at IFF day. Annette and her boarder are looking at how we can do this.

**Up and coming events**

**December 2018** – Christmas Dinner with Altrousers, 30/11 at 5.30pm, where something purple.
At Cosmopolitan Club, Linton Street.


**March 2019** - 10 year charter anniversary dinner, venue still to be decided. A committee has been formed and will get together soon.

**Merry Christmas everyone have a wonderful festive time with friends and family, and to those on holiday enjoy.**
The End